

5 March 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 5 March 1979

The Director was attending an SCC meeting on SALT II; Mr. Carlucci chaired the meeting. [ ]

25X1

With the aid of briefing boards, Lehman displayed areas in Vietnam from which Chinese troops seem to be withdrawing. The Chinese announced this morning that they intend to withdraw from Vietnam. Lehman highlighted the heavy fighting taking place at Lang Son, noting that the Vietnamese have committed main forces to that area. [ ]

25X1

Lehman pointed out areas where South Yemen has penetrated North Yemen. Speculation exists that the Soviets, Cubans and/or Ethiopians have been involved. [ ]

25X1

McMahon mentioned that the U.S. Ambassador in Sana has recommended that the U.S. provide ground support for the Saudi Air Force. Evans noted that a Mini-SCC meeting has been scheduled for 7 March on Yemen. Bowie opined that the disturbances in Yemen are probably more consequential for U.S. policy interests than other current trouble spots, including the PRC/Vietnam hostilities. Mr. Carlucci agreed. [ ]

25X1

Lehman reported that regarding the Tanzanian/Ugandan problem, Libya is planning to airlift an artillery battalion and send a TU-22 to aid Uganda. In response to Mr. Carlucci's question, McMahon said that the report that the Moroccans were sending troops was incorrect. [ ]

25X1

Following up on Morocco, Lehman said that Morocco may withdraw its contingent from Zaire sooner than expected. [ ]

25X1

McMahon speculated that the Libyans are helping Uganda as a means of moving against the Sudanese, and the Ethiopians are also talking about going against the Sudanese. [ ]

25X1

Lipton reported that OMB is about to approve the reserve release for [ ] In response to Mr. Carlucci's question about the status of the education and travel items in the authorization bill, Lipton said that he would check. [ ] recalled that the Director had sent a strong letter to D/OMB on this topic, but no reply has yet been received. Mr. Carlucci suggested that OLC check on the letter and tell HPSCI to include these items in our authorization bill. (Action: Comptroller and OLC) [ ]

25X1

25X1



25X1

In response to EA/DCI [ ] question, Dirks said that there has not yet been a thorough debriefing of the personnel returning [ ] Mr. Carlucci asked that they be enjoined from making any public statements. (Action: DDS&T) [ ]

25X1

25X1

25X1

Shackley advised that his staff would be briefing the SSCI advisory panel on the national reconnaissance system on PHOTINT and SIGINT. [ ]

25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET

Mr. Carlucci reported that as a follow-up to a lunch discussion with senior officers about DCI staff meetings, Hetu suggested that some staff meetings be devoted to in-depth discussions of topics of interest. Mr. Carlucci said that he and the Director agreed that if such meetings were to take place it would be preferable to hold them on a Tuesday or Thursday and leave the current Monday/Wednesday/Friday meeting format intact. Mr. Carlucci asked for opinions on holding such additional staff meetings as well as on the possibility of dropping the Wednesday meetings, which the Director will not be able to attend because of the new Presidential briefing schedule. As a result of the brief discussion that followed, it was agreed that Wednesday staff meetings should continue because they were worthwhile for attendees. It was also agreed that additional staff meetings on specific topics could be held on Thursdays from 0845 to 0945 as long as there were topics that were worthy of discussion. Mr. Carlucci asked the Executive Secretary to schedule such meetings as appropriate. (Action: ES)

25X1

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-6

NEW YORK TIMES  
3 MARCH 1979

## Ex-C.I.A. Aide Tells of Life at Iran Listening Post

By HEDRICK SMITH  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 2 — "It was like an operation from the 21st century and it was so ironic," recalled Philip J. McCabe, a self-styled former intelligence analyst who now runs a resort in Maine. "Here we were out in the wilderness, living among nomads who were mostly living in the 18th and 19th century, and we had this supersophisticated electronic surveillance base."

He was describing the incongruities of Kabkan, the remote-American intelligence outpost overlooking the Soviet frontier, straining with its advanced Buck Rogers surveillance antennas for electronic signals from Soviet missile tests at Tyuratam, 650 miles to the east.

Mr. McCabe, a 31-year-old former Air Force sergeant, called The New York Times and offered information about his tour at Kabkan in 1973 and 1974. He drew a picture of a remote region, with roads cut sharply into the sides of mountains. The listening post was perched at 6,500 feet, overlooking what he called "the open Russian frontier — I mean there were nomads who used to wander back and forth across the border with the seasons."

"This was a supersophisticated base," he said, "but it was vulnerable because we were so close to the Russian border. In fact, we used to be buzzed sometimes by Soviet aircraft. The Russians used to get permission from the Iranian Government to do flyovers when they had military

maneuvers up there off the Indian Ocean. They would fly over our base by a few hundred feet and take photographs."

### Cat-and-Mouse Game

In a telephone interview, Mr. McCabe gave a picture of the cat-and-mouse game being played by the Russians and Americans in the remote Iranian mountains.

"They were interested in our equipment, in our antennas, because we were always getting new experimental antennas and other equipment," he said. "From the size and shape of our antennas they could figure out what we were looking for and what frequencies we were monitoring."

Once the Russians worked out the American capabilities and intentions, he said, "they would take various means to try to fool us, trick us, and try to stop us from acquiring information on their missile development."

Mr. McCabe said he had been recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency for its two bases in Iran because he had become a specialist on monitoring Soviet rocket experiments while serving as an Air Force sergeant at the American listening post in Peshawar, Pakistan.

### First Sent to Behshahr

After joining the agency in 1971, Mr. McCabe said, he was sent to the C.I.A. facility at Behshahr, on the Caspian Sea, which he described as being within commuting distance of Teheran. He said it was a larger facility than Kabkan, where

about 15 to 18 Americans, with Iranians as clerks, cooks, technicians and guards, manned an electronic outpost on a mountain perch. Another three or four would be resting in a valley base that had a swimming pool, tennis court and a private airstrip.

"We would go down there for a few days to relax," he recalled. "Twice a week an American plane would come up from Teheran and bring us food and our supplies. Morale was good, the compensation was good. The plane would take our data. But when there was a special event, one of us would courier it. One of us would take the data immediately to the United States so it would be there within 24 hours."

Although he was paid \$27,000 a year plus an ample expense allowance whenever he traveled, Mr. McCabe said that he resigned from the C.I.A. in November, 1974, after three years in the two Iranian listening posts. He returned to Maine to get a master's degree in business administration. Two years ago he bought his own resort, The Moorings, at Pine Point outside of Portland.

"I was shocked when I saw all the business about Kabkan on TV last night," he said. "I was shocked to see it identified as a C.I.A. facility because it could be dangerous if any of those Americans was still there. You're sure they are all out?"

Mr. McCabe had been hesitant to speak until he was assured that the Government said all 22 technicians from the outpost had left Iran.